2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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all talking at once, who squatted in what little space there was inside the room and overflowed into the passage outside. The work these three men did was incredibly difficult and yet they were successful to a remarkable degree, and succeeded in maintaining not only security on the trade routes in the Protectorate, but at the same time they were able to strengthen the ties between Government and the Rulers.

Outside the Secretariat there were only three European officers of the Government. The senior was the Chairman of the Port Trust Board and of the Settlement Board, and at the time of which I am writing the appointment was held by an officer of the Royal Engineers who had been seconded to the civil engineering side of the Government of India. He presided over the Board of Trustees of the Port and was also the Chief Executive Officer, and in addition he managed the affairs of the Settlement. The Settlement, as I have already indicated, was a term which included all the British territory which is now the Colony, and the Settlement Board was the successor of what in fact had been a Municipal Committee. A municipality was formed some while after our occupation of Aden in 1839, but it was not until 1882 that any attempt seems to have been made to produce a set of municipal rules. In 1900 the local authority ceased to be called a Municipal Committee and became known as the Aden Settlement. As such it, in fact, did everything, and rather more, that an ordinary municipality does in this country. The "rather more" being control of the electric light supply and also the water supply, both profitable undertakings which were wrested from it when in 1937 Aden became a Crown Colony and the new Colonial Government was in search of funds.

The next important European officer was the Judicial Assistant, who succeeded in combining with a reasonable degree of success the duties of legal adviser to the Resident and Judge of the District and Sessions Court. The last, but by no means least important of the European officers, was the Commissioner of Police who was seconded from the Indian Police and under the District Magistrate was responsible for the maintenance of law and order.

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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PART II

CHAPTER SIX

Security, Colony and Protectorate

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THE first duty of all Governors and Administrators is to maintain security in the area under their authority, and in order to enable them to carry out this primary function they are provided with security forces which may take the form of police, armed or unarmed, and troops, regular or irregular, and even aircraft. In Aden when I became Governor there were two separate security problems, the first of which was the maintenance of law and order in the Colony itself, and the second was the maintenance of security in the more settled areas of the Protectorate, while at the same time increasing the sphere in which our security measures were effective until the whole of the Protectorate territory had achieved a degree of security which would enable development both political and economic to take place.

In the Colony there were available to me, as Governor, Civil Police in adequate numbers, a small detachment of Armed Police, and under the command of the Air Officer Commanding, a reserve of British troops in the form of a detachment of the Royal Air Force Regiment. In addition, there were also the Aden Protectorate Levies for use during a period of disturbance to guard key points, in particular in the neighbourhood of the Khormaksar military installations.

In the Protectorate there were various forces and formations available and at my own and the Rulers' disposal; in addition there were aircraft of the Royal Air Force operating from the Colony and also from landing grounds in the Protectorate. Later I will describe the employment of the Protectorate

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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security forces in further detail, but for the moment I want to confine my attention to security in the Colony.

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The Colony, to all outward appearances, and they can be very deceptive, always seemed to be one of the most peaceful places on earth where nothing was ever likely to happen, but in fact it only required a minor incident at the wrong time to cause really serious trouble and to do so not within a matter of days, but almost of minutes. The reason, of course, is not far to seek; it is that there are in the Colony three races who have no special love for each other. The Jews are disliked and despised by the Arabs whom they fear, while the Arabs in their turn dislike the Somalis who are, at the best of times, a truculent lot. Therefore, we were always liable to have trouble between the Arabs and the Jews which might well spread to the Hindu community, or between the Somalis and the Arabs, or between all three, and in no time, much to the surprise very often of successive Air Officers Commanding, the summer skies had clouded over and we were having a devil of a storm, which with firm measures would pass as quickly as it began. A stranger would be astonished to learn on his arrival in tranquil Aden that inter-racial disturbances had resulted in one or two deaths only two or three days before.

I do not want to give the impression that Aden is particularly prone to disorder, and that civil disturbances are the rule rather than the exception because this would be a false picture. What I mean is that, on the rare occasions when there is trouble, it comes with incredible swiftness, due to the latent racial animosities that are always present.

To give an instance of my first experience of the speed of events when inter-racial trouble started in the Colony, I must go back to 1931, when there occurred the first anti-Jewish riot. At that time there were some 6,000 Jews living in Aden, most of them in Crater in their own quarter close by the Boys' Secondary School. Some of them were very wealthy and most of them were in business either as shopkeepers or merchants or petty traders, and generally speaking, they kept very much to themselves, were self-effacing and their contacts with the Arabs were reasonably good. From time to time,

701 question of sound and inspired leadership and the discipline which flows from such leadership.

626 Security in the Protectorate was a very much wider problem than in the Colony and there were more diverse forces at my disposal to ensure a reasonable degree of protection and to punish those who wilfully created disturbances. Prior to 1937 no-one had paid very much attention to the Protectorate, and His Majesty's Government certainly had not attempted to honour their obligations. I doubt if they were really fully aware of what those obligations were to the people of this great territory. Beyond ensuring, in so far as was possible, that the trade routes remained open so that the trade of the Colony was not impaired by the wild and woolly ruffians in the hills behind, very little was done, and what was done was generally by the old-fashioned method of placating unruly and tiresome individuals with rifles and ammunition and money.

626 631 After 1937 there was a profound change in policy and the emphasis was then on reducing the number of lethal weapons in private possession and building up the authority of the Treaty Chiefs by providing them with the means to maintain security in their own States. His Majesty's Government had come to a better understanding of their obligations and realised that the first essential to any form of progress must be security. The Rulers were encouraged, therefore, to form their own armed police forces, and they received assistance in arming, clothing and paying for these forces.

• 625 701 By the time I became Governor there had come into being in each State a body of men who were known as Tribal Guards and who were at the Ruler's disposal to maintain his authority and for use in any sudden security emergency. Starting as a completely untrained force they had gradually been brought up to a standard of efficiency and effectiveness which was a credit to the instructors who had been made available from the [714] Government Guards. On ceremonial occasions they were very smart indeed, dressed in khaki shirts and khaki kilts with red cloth head-dresses, but in an emergency they left these trappings at home and there was nothing outwardly to distinguish

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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them from their fellow tribesmen, except their superior armament and well filled cartridge belts.

The Tribal Guards are the first line of offence and defence of the Ruler and in only two of the States is there any more elaborate organisation. Lahej has a private army which was, when I was in Aden, a sorry collection of ragamuffins, some 200 strong, whose pipe Band was much in demand on St. Andrew's night at the Union Club, that centre of European civilisation and culture in the Colony; otherwise, I am afraid this force had but little merit. The Quaiti Sultan has, at Mukalla, a Regular Army and the headquarters of his Armed Constabulary which, thanks very largely to the inspiration of Mr. W. H. Ingrams, C.M.G., O.B.E., who as Resident Adviser did so much for that country, were reasonably efficient. In appearance there is little to choose between the Regular Army and the Armed Constabulary, except that the former was considerably darker in hue, having been recruited largely from the Sultan's ex-slaves.

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Some years before an interesting conversation had taken place between the Quaiti Sultan and a Political Officer in Mukalla, at a time when Aden was threatened with a visit from one of the more rabid anti-slavery enthusiasts.

"Don't you think it would be a good idea, your Highness, if you were to release your slaves?" inquired the Political Officer, referring to the Palace slaves who numbered some 300 men and youths without taking into account their women folk. The Political Officer had led up to this question with a dissertation on the rights of man and world public opinion, and he had produced all the usual anti-slavery arguments with considerable eloquence, and he awaited the answer to his question with some anxiety. The Authorities in Aden, threatened by the advent of the enthusiast, were seriously worried about the slaves of Mukalla. Although, in fact, they were a lot of lazy well-fed good-for-nothings, there was no doubt that in theory they were slaves, and enthusiasts can never see out of both eyes at the same time.

"It is a very good idea," replied His Highness, "but I can release them only on one condition."

Aden

567 "What is the condition?" asked the Political Officer with considerable misgiving.

"You must agree to send troops here when I free them," answered the Sultan.

"What for?" asked the astonished Political Officer.

"To protect me, of course," said the Sultan.

"I am afraid I do not understand, your Highness," said the Political Officer much perplexed.

"I am surprised. Surely it's obvious? I feed and house and clothe my so-called slaves, and of course, their families. I give them presents on religious festivals and when they marry. I have not enough work for them to do and in consequence they have an easy life. Now, if I say to them that they are free and I don't propose to keep them any longer and that they must go away and earn their own living, I am afraid they won't be very pleased. They are simple people, you know, and prefer actual ease and comfort with only technical restraint to freedom and hard work, and as they are stronger than my army I must be certain of your help before I make them free," was the answer of the Sultan.

567 702 As usual with us a compromise was achieved and the slaves became the troops.

701 •625 The backing for the Tribal Guards in the Western Protectorate comes from a body of men called the Government Guards, a fine lot who were originally raised and trained by Lord Belhaven and Stenton, when as Master of Belhaven he was a Political Officer working in the Protectorate. Indeed, it was his idea which brought them into being and the Protectorate should be extremely grateful to him for his happy thought and his hard work in the early formative months. They are under the general direction of the British Agent, who is the senior Political official responsible to the Governor for the Western half of the Protectorate, and are a Government force paid for from the annual subvention from Her Majesty's [714] Government. Well armed and well trained with distinctive black head-dresses, they play many dangerous and difficult parts. Led by their British and Arab officers they are always ready to support the Tribal Guards when local difficulties

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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prove too great for them to overcome alone, and to find escorts for Political Officers in troublesome areas. The forts on the Aden-Yemen frontier and in the less secure regions in the Protectorate are garrisoned by them. Always ready to move, always ready to fight and always cheerful, their early history can be read in Lord Belhaven's autobiography, *The Uneven Road*, which nobody can read without intense enjoyment. Many of the guards have died or been grievously wounded in doing their duty; and although they are soldiers of the Queen, very few people outside their own country have ever even heard of their existence.

In the Eastern Protectorate the equivalent of the Government Guards is the Hadhrami Bedouin Legion, the men of which are in every way their equal and whose role is precisely the same and which came into existence through the foresight of Ingrams. They are a tough and courageous body of men who carry out their desert patrols on the borders of the Ruba-al-Khali with a fine disregard for climatic conditions or personal safety.

The third and last line of locally recruited troops are the Aden Protectorate Levies who were raised shortly after the Great War of 1914-18, strangely enough as the First Yemen Infantry by Lt.-Colonel M. C. Lake, C.M.G. Recruited from the same source as the Government Guards they are regular soldiers and were, during the time that I was Governor of Aden, officered by officers of the Royal Air Force Regiment on secondment, although the change to include the Army in the source from which officers could be obtained and which has now come about, was at that time under consideration. In normal times the Levies are stationed within the Colony limits and are moved by air or by lorry to help the Government Guards whenever the need arises. In the early days of my term of office they travelled in great long loery convoys, very vulnerable and painfully slow, but later, I am glad to say, there were drastic and necessary changes and the emphasis was put on the air as a medium of transport.

In theory the Levies are available for use in the Eastern as

well as the Western Protectorate, but in practice they have been far too busy in recent years dealing with Yemeni-inspired raiding and other disturbances in the Western Protectorate and only once in their history have they been employed in the Hadhramaut. The Levies have had heavy responsibilities and very hard has been their lot and very scanty the praise that those brave men have received. Shortly before my term of office expired a detachment of regular troops from the Army was stationed in Aden, to my great satisfaction. They were invaluable.

So far I have dealt solely with the Land Forces, but with only a few thousand men, possibly 4,000 in all, however well trained and however well armed and led, it would be virtually impossible to safeguard a frontier line of over 700 miles in length running through the most difficult country from aggression, and at the same time to maintain any reasonable degree of security in an area where social conditions today are equivalent to those existing in the Highlands of Scotland in the mid-eighteenth century, and which is twenty-five per cent. larger than the United Kingdom. That the frontier has been maintained and that security has increased of recent years is due very largely to the Royal Air Force, acting in the closest accord with the ground forces. Without the Royal Air Force my task would indeed have been difficult; I will go further and say quite frankly it would have been impossible.

As Governor I frequently had to authorise the use of air action against frontier raiders or recalcitrant tribesmen within Protectorate limits, and I have never been able to follow the almost hysterical reaction with which some sections of the population of these islands are affected whenever they read in the newspapers that bombing has taken place, or indeed that any form of air action has been used. It is for this reason that I shall deal at some length with that most humane of all the various methods by which law and order can be maintained by force, the employment of aircraft.

I do not propose to enter the lists on the side of those who favour this form of policing, nor do I propose to side with the many people who have genuine misgivings, but I am going

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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the east at Sanau where the only well was between Thamud and the Aden-Muscat frontier. These two places lie to the south of the great sand dunes of the Ruba-al-Khali amidst country more desolate than I have ever seen in any part of the world, and in my time I have flown over, driven over or walked and ridden over some pretty uninviting country.

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I went to Thamud for the first time in 1953, before the fort had been built, to inspect the detachment of the Hadhrami Bedouin Legion who were living in holes scraped out of the hard sand and furnished with a canvas roof as some protection against the fierce heat of the sun. It was not easy to pick up the well from the air in that featureless country and it reflects great credit on the navigator and the pilot of the 'plane that they found the landing strip at the first attempt. We landed a mile or so from the well, and the only signs of life as we drove to the well were the store-cum-hospital tent, a modest affair of some 160 lbs., which normally would sleep a dozen men, and the two much smaller tents of the Military Assistant to the Resident Adviser and the Commandant of the Legion who had joined the detachment temporarily, the former a Scot from the Highlands and the latter a stout and jovial Arab on secondment from the Arab Legion in Trans-Jordan.

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A guard was mounted, which I inspected, and I do not recall ever having seen a better turned-out or smarter body of men anywhere. These men, who are recruited from the bedouin tribes, are responsible among other things for guarding the long Aden-Saudi Arabian frontier, and they do their work very well. They work under the direct control of their own Arab officers who command the Frontier Posts and who are responsible for the motor patrols which operate between the Posts. These motor patrols are equipped with Land-Rovers and carry portable wireless sets which enable them to keep in touch with their parent Post. The Military Assistant is stationed hundreds of miles away in Mukalla where the Commandant also has his headquarters, so that these Arab officers and their men are normally very much on their own and quickly learn to use their own initiative in dealing with sudden emergencies and solving the various problems which are the normal lot of

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

independent commanders in out-of-the-way places. In a serious crisis the Commandant of the Legion and the Military Assistant would be flown up to the nearest Post and the Commandant would take over the general control of the situation, sure in the knowledge that he could call on the Military Assistant, an experienced soldier, for advice at any time. Behind them both there was Hugh Boustead, capable of dealing with almost any situation single-handed, and behind him was Aden and the Royal Air Force ready and willing to help at any time. Everything was in good shape and I never had any qualms about our ability to deal with interlopers on the Saudi frontier.

In 1955 Her Majesty's Government formally declared the co-ordinates of the line south of which they would not tolerate the unrestricted movement of foreign subjects, and it was not long after this announcement was made to the Saudi Government that an American oil-survey party operating in two sections with an armed Saudi escort, trespassed in two separate places. They were located from the air and in no time the Military Assistant with an adequate escort from the Hadhrami Bedouin Legion, had moved by air and Land-Rover to intercept them. The error of their ways was pointed out to them and they withdrew promptly with their escort, leaving their expensive equipment behind in spite of being told they could take it with them. The escort had second thoughts and returned and were promptly taken into custody and disarmed without a shot being fired and later sent to Jedda by a civil Air Line. As far as I know the equipment is still in the desert; it certainly was in 1956 when I drove that way, and it was already showing very clearly the effects of sun, sand and the bedouin.

It was in the same year, 1955, that the Buraimi business in Trucial Oman where the Sheikhdom of Abu Dhabi meets the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman, upset King Saud. Stolen fruit is always so much sweeter than that which is got by legitimate means and in this case both *hasad* and *sherf* were involved—"jealousy" and "honour", those two curses of Arabia which have kept the peoples and the countries divided for generations and generations. The King showed his irritation with Great Britain by sending arms to the bedouin in the northern areas

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579 order in the Colony, and this was done with the minimum
689 of force by the police supported by the military forces in the Colony. The fact that on two occasions the police were forced to open fire on rioters indicates how serious the situation was. It also indicates our determination to let nothing hinder us in the execution of our duty. Mercifully there were only two or three casualties, one of whom was a schoolboy who was killed by a stray shot while watching a crowd being prevented from storming the Tawahi Police Station in order to release a workman who, very properly, had been arrested. It was a tragic business. Some innocent person almost inevitably suffers on these occasions. I was, by chance, in Tawahi when the boy's funeral procession passed along the road and after it had gone by an elderly man, an Arab, walked up to me and said:

"You are responsible. It was murder."

Emotion had distorted his judgment, poor fellow, and I mention the incident only to indicate the unreasonableness that prevailed.

468 The Refinery Management kept their heads and showed good sense, as did some of the leading members of the Aden Trades Union Congress, several of whom worked indefatiguably to end the strikes. Without their help and understanding things would have been very much worse. As it was, normal conditions at the Refinery were restored in a comparatively short space of time, and then the pieces all fell into place again and the strikes were over, except in one or two cases where one side or the other was particularly stupid and unyielding.

625 In my opinion it was the Civil and Military security forces who came best out of this sorry affair. They were firm at the right time and lenient at the right time and their patience was admirable at all times. It was due to them that the situation did not become very much worse. It is only right that I should say so and that they should receive a few halfpence when they deserve them—they get enough kicks when they don't.

468 I ordered a Commission to be set up to inquire into the
466 cause of the strikes and to make recommendations for the

3:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MM1 Aden MM1

691 107 applications for maintenance were made in the Courts of the Magistrates. In 47 cases orders for maintenance were granted.

The offences in respect of which persons were tried in the Supreme Court were—

(1) Culpable homicide not amounting to murder,
(2) Forgery of a cheque and cheating,
(3) Murder,
(4) House trespass and outraging the modesty of a woman,
(5) Forging a Court document.

695 58 criminal appeals were lodged and 62 proceedings in revision taken in the Supreme Court. In 11 appeals the cases were remanded for retrial, and 23 appeals were dismissed. In 14 cases appeals were allowed and in 6 cases sentences were reduced. 51 applications for revision were dismissed. In one case sentence was enhanced, in 2 cases sentences were reduced, and in 5 cases convictions were set aside and 3 cases were ordered to be retried.

693 There are 6 lawyers practising in the Courts of the Colony, three being Hindus, two Mohamedans and one a Parsee. Sanads are granted by the Supreme Court under rules made under the Supreme Court Ordinance. Two of these lawyers are Barristers-at-Law and the other four have Indian legal qualifications.

Police

625 The police under the control of a Commissioner of Police and a Deputy Commissioners of Police consist of two forces, an unarmed and an armed force. The strength of the former is 9 Inspectors, 4 Jamadars and 306 men. The strength of the armed force is 4 Inspectors, 1 Jamadar and 200 men. Details of the strength are as follows:—

Unarmed Police

	Inspectors.	*Jamadars.*	*Head Constables and Constables.*
Aden Land and Sheikh Othman Foot Police.	5	2	225
Perim Land Police	—	—	12
Sheikh Othman Mounted Police	—	1	12
Aden Harbour Police ...	4	1	57
Total	9	4	306

Armed Police

At Aden	2	1	138
At Perim	1	—	32
At Kamaran	1	—	30
Total	4	1	200

4:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1937) 1939 MM1 Aden MM1

Police.

The police under the control of a Commissioner of Police and a Deputy Commissioner consist of two forces, an unarmed and an armed force. The strength of the former is 9 Inspectors, 4 Jamadars and 306 men. The strength of the armed force is 4 Inspectors, 1 Jamadar and 200 men. Details of the strength are as follows:—

UNARMED POLICE.

	Inspectors.	*Jamadars.*	*Head Constables and Constables.*
Aden Land and Sheikh Othman Foot Police ...	5	2	224
Perim Land Police ...	—	—	13
Sheikh Othman Mounted Police	—	1	12
Aden Harbour Police ...	4	1	57
Total	9	4	306

ARMED POLICE.

	Inspectors.	*Jamadars.*	*Head Constables and Constables.*
At Aden	2	1	140
At Perim	1	—	30
At Kamaran	1	—	30
	4	1	200

Prison.

The Aden District Prison is located in the Crater.

The chief industries of the jail at present are: (1) cane work of all sorts, (2) manufacture of tennis, hockey and football nets, (3) restringing of tennis racquets, and (4) breaking stone metal.

The permanent staff of the prison consists of a Superintendent, a Jailor, a Head Clerk, a Subordinate Medical Service Officer, a Jamadar, a Quartermaster Havildar, two Lance Naiks and twelve sepoys. Two temporary wardresses are employed whenever female prisoners are admitted, one for day and one for night duty.

All members of the permanent staff are provided with free quarters close to jail premises, with the exception of the Superintendent and the Subordinate Medical Service Officer.

Official and non-official visitors appointed under the prison rules visit the jail once a week in rotation and hold a combined inspection once a quarter.

There is an Advisory Committee consisting of a President, two officials and two non-official members, which meets every six months to review sentences of long-term prisoners (five years and upwards). One meeting of the Advisory Board was held during the year and one case of a long-term prisoner was reviewed; the convict in question was not recommended for release.

5:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden M M1

reported in detail under "Other Serious Crime" below, is still under active Police investigation. It was the third case of this sort in 1947. In the other cases offenders were arrested and sentenced to heavy terms of imprisonment.

The number of petty offences brought before the Courts increased. This increase was largely due to Police action in prosecuting beggars and persons causing obstructions. Thefts in the harbour increased during the first half of the year, but the energetic application of the new Port Rules began to bear fruit and a substantial drop in these offences resulted.

The question of deportations of undesirables continued to be a difficult problem for the Police, owing to the absence of effective frontier control. A large number of Yemen Arabs were deported and an almost equally large number re-deported. A number of Yemeni Jews were also deported to the Yemen by sea.

The strength of the Armed Police was maintained up to the authorised establishment of 250. Detachments of Armed Police were maintained at Kamaran and Perim.

The Civil Police strength was maintained up to establishment; health and discipline were good and the number of men who passed written examinations and thus gained proficiency pay was satisfactory.

Criminal Investigation Department

The department was in charge of a Senior Superintendent. Continuity of command could not be maintained, however, owing to leave requirements, and the department had to function under various officers. Changes had also to be effected in the clerical staff and as a result organisation was somewhat slowed down. It was possible, however, to open a C.R.O. system for criminals and deportees and it is most satisfactory to note that 285 C.R.O. files were opened during the year and 249 criminals and/or deportees photographed.

There were two cases of homicide which required supervision and assistance, and a case of inflicted grievous harm; these cases are more fully described on page 41.

Indexes continue to be built up and expanded.

For a period in December the department had virtually to close down owing to the paramount need for concentrating the whole of the available staff on the immediate task of quelling the riots.

The total number of cases registered under the Indian Penal Code was 1,233, as against 1,122 in 1946, and 1,010 in 1945; an increase of 111 cases in 1947 over 1946. A very large portion of the increase is represented by charges made before the close of the year in connection with the December riots, hence the true increase in Penal Code offences is very small indeed and it is most satisfactory that this should be so.

A total of 4,754 cases were also dealt with by Police under local ordinances and minor acts.

5:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1

In January an Arab driving a truck on a desert track near Sheikh Othman knocked down and killed a Jew. The Supreme Court found him guilty of causing death by negligence and the accused was sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment.

On 13th September, 1947, an Arab succani of the vessel *El-Hak* had a quarrel with another Arab on the Messageries Maritimes Pier and in the course of the quarrel produced a revolver, fired 3 rounds and fatally wounded the other Arab. He subsequently fired at and wounded one of a number of coolies who tried to arrest him and was finally captured after attempting to swim to his ship. He was convicted of murder and sentenced to death. This case affords an instance, rare in Aden, of members of the public acting on their own initiative to assist the authorities.

The Imad murder case, referred to in the 1946 Annual Report, was tried by the Supreme Court, and on 23rd April, 1947, three of the accused were found guilty and sentenced to death; one accused was acquitted. There was an appeal to the High Court of Bombay and in September it was announced that the sentences for murder had been quashed. The principal accused was sentenced to 7 years rigorous imprisonment and the other two were acquitted.

Other Serious Crime

On the evening of Sunday, 17th August, 1947, the Matron of the Civil Hospital was attacked at the gateway to her house by an assailant who threw a quantity of acid into her face. The Assistant Superintendent of Police in Crater was on the scene within a few minutes of the incident and investigation continued throughout the night. These investigations were severely handicapped by lack of witnesses.

A reward of Rs. 5,000 was offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the accused, and the co-operation of Chiefs in the Western Aden Protectorate area was requested and also Muslim religious and social leaders in Aden Colony. Information was eventually received that the person believed to have perpetrated this outrage had taken refuge in a neighbouring territory, but it has not yet been possible to obtain his arrest.

Fire-Fighting Duties

Police continued to be responsible for fire-fighting duties in the Colony. The number of fires reported and dealt with by the Police during 1947 is as follows:

Tawahi	2	Estimated damage		Rs. 9,000
Maalla	4	,,	,,	Rs. 700
Crater	2	,,	,,	Rs. 2,025
Sheikh Othman	5	,,	,,	Rs. 2,300

These figures do not include buildings destroyed or damaged during the December, 1947, riots.

6:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden M M1

692 effected. Magistrates are also required to submit to the Supreme Court for inspection the record of any case in which a sentence of corporal punishment is awarded.

REGISTRATION

659 The Registration Department is in charge of the Registrar of Documents, who is also Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for
656 the Colony of Aden.

During the year under review, His Honour the Judge of the Supreme Court was in charge of the offices referred to above.

Registration of Testamentary and Non-Testamentary Documents

The total number of documents presented during the year under report was 375.

Sixty-seven applications for copies, searches and inspections were received, and disposed of.

The number of visits paid by the Sub-Registrar to private residences was 42.

Registration of Firms

Twenty applications for registration of firms under the Partnership Ordinance, 1939, were received.

Bills of Exchange

The total number of bills of exchange noted and protested under the Bills of Exchange Ordinance, 1941, was 55.

Powers of Attorney

The total number of powers of attorney attested or authenticated was seven.

Income

651 The total income for registration of documents, firms and notarial charges was Rs. 6,926.

Duties Performed by the Sub-Registrar

The Sub-Registrar performs the duties of Notary Public, Registrar of Births and Deaths, Registrar of Parsi Marriages, Registrar of Firms, Trade Marks, Patents and Designs, and acts as a Personal Assistant to the Registrar of Documents and the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

POLICE

625 The Police Force has a total strength of 640. The proportion of Police to population is approximately 1 in 125. The Force comprises Aden Arabs, Aden Protectorate Arabs, Indians and Somalis and is officered by members of the Colonial Police Service. It is divided into two distinct units, the Civil Police and the Armed Police. The former perform normal

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden M M1

625 police duties, the protection of persons and property, and the prevention and detection of crime. They also police the very important and busy 647 harbour of Aden. The Criminal Investigation Department is responsible for the investigation of serious crime, special branch work, immigration, the issue of passports and the deportation of undesirables and vagrants.

494 In addition, the Police undertake the registration of motor vehicles, the issue of driving licences and the control and issue of permits to public service vehicles.

625 The Armed Police are a semi-military armed force and are responsible for the maintenance of internal security. They provide guards where necessary and escorts for prisoners. They are trained and organised to provide an immediate striking force in the event of internal disturbances. They also provide garrisons for the Islands of Perim and Kamaran.

674 Criminal cases for the year 1948 showed a decrease of 344 as compared with the year 1947, a decrease in Penal Code offences of almost 33⅓ per cent. This decrease may be considered exceptionally high, but the figures for 1947 were swollen by cases arising from the 1947 riots. How- [167] ever, there has been a distinct drop in Penal Code offences in the year under review by comparison with the years 1946 and 1945 and it is considered that the reduction is largely due to the implementation in 1947–48 of a closer degree of control over expelled undesirables and the 685 readier detection of them on their return to the Colony. In 1948 there were 522 cases of offences against property compared with 736 such cases in 1947. The total value of property stolen was Rs. 234,644 of which property to the value of Rs. 119,439 (just over 50 per cent) was recovered.

625 During the year under review a total of 5,991 cases was also dealt 691 with by Police under local Ordinances. This shows an increase over the year 1947, but is largely due to the fact that more energetic action has been taken by Police in the matter of dealing with beggars, street vendors and other minor offenders.

PRISON.

697 Dr. N. M. Hodivalla, O.B.E., part-time Superintendent, proceeded to India on leave, in October, 1948, and charge of the Prison till the end of the year was taken over by the Jailer.

The Aden Prison is the only Prison in the Colony, and therefore receives all classes of convicted offenders, in addition to persons committed to trial, and deportees and vagrants awaiting deportation.

Approximately 80 per cent of convicted prisoners are from the Yemen, the Protectorate, and other territories. The administration follows closely, modified where desirable by local conditions, the practice adopted in India.

The prison buildings are situated in a walled compound which ensures complete segregation from the general public. They consist of widely spaced and well-ventilated dormitories, cells, workrooms, store-rooms, kitchens, hospital and office.

Extention to the present office, construction of a range of six superior individual cells for "A" and "B" class prisoners, five cells for the accommodation of lunatic prisoners, and compound walls to four prison

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden

of the Red Sea route and the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 regained for Aden its old importance. As a result of the increased prosperity of Aden since British occupation, the civil population excluding military has risen from 500 to 80,516 (according to the census taken in October, 1946). The modern commercial prosperity of Aden is based on the fact that it is a fuelling-station, originally for coal, and now for coal and oil. It is nearer than any other large port on the main eastern trade route to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's production centre in the Persian Gulf. The fact that ships call at Aden for fuelling has caused general increase in trade, and it is the distributing centre for trade to and from Arabia, Ethiopia, Somaliland and Africa.

Perim Island was first occupied by the French in 1738. In 1799 the British took formal possession, but evacuated the island in the same year. It was later reoccupied by the British in January, 1857, and placed under the control of an Assistant Political Resident at Aden. In 1929 the Manager of the Perim Coal Company was appointed Government Agent but, on the closing down of that Company in October, 1936, the Commissioner of Police, Aden, was appointed Administrator of the island. A police detachment is maintained at Perim, and the Administrator makes regular visits from Aden, usually by air.

Chapter 3: Administration

Since 1937, when the territory was taken from the control of the Government of India and put under the Colonial Office, the constitution of Aden has been that of a Crown Colony. The Colony is administered by a Governor, assisted by an Executive Council.

Under the royal instructions, the Executive Council of the Colony consists of the officers lawfully discharging the functions of Chief Secretary, of Attorney General and of Financial Secretary and such other persons as may from time to time be appointed by His Majesty by any instructions or warrants under his sign manual and signet, or as the Governor may, by an instrument under the public seal of the Colony appoint in pursuance of instructions from His Majesty through one of his principal Secretaries of State, or as the Governor may provisionally appoint in the manner provided in the royal instructions.

Whenever upon any special occasion the Governor desires to obtain the advice of any person within the Colony relating to affairs therein, he may summon such person, for such special occasions, as an Extraordinary Member of the Council.

Under the provisions of the Aden Colony (Amendment) Order, 1946, a Legislative Council was constituted for the Colony of Aden. The Council was inaugurated in January, 1947, and consists of the Governor as President, 4 *ex-officio* members, not more than 4 official members and not more than 8 unofficial members. A list of members of the Executive and Legislative Councils is attached as Appendix I.

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1

Aden Colony also includes Perim Island which is administered by an Administrator who is also the Commissioner of Police, Aden. The population of the island is 381. The majority of the islanders are fishermen, and dried fish is exported to Aden. In the past there has been pearl fishing, but this year no pearl fishing contract was taken.

There is a small Police detachment in the island together with medical staff and lighthouse staff.

There is no natural water supply on the island; sea-water distilling plant provides sufficient water for the supply of the population and for the occasional ship which comes in for emergency water supplies.

Up to the end of 1948 Cable & Wireless Ltd. maintained communication by marine cable. The cable became unserviceable in 1948, and it was decided not to repair it. It is likely that communication will soon be established by wireless. A R.A.F. airplane makes a flight to the island once weekly and carries mail and passengers from Aden.

The Governor of the Colony is also Governor of the Aden Protectorate, which is not administered by the Colony Government. In each of the Western and Eastern Protectorates the Governor is represented by a British Agent, who deals with the various Rulers and Treaty Chiefs on the basis of treaties concluded with them.

There is no one Government for the Aden Protectorate; various Rulers and Chiefs are in protective treaty relations with His Majesty's Government. The Protectorate includes the island of Socotra.

The administration of justice within the Colony is entrusted to the Supreme Court, a Court of Small Causes for certain specified civil cases and Magistrates' Courts for criminal cases. The law of the Protectorate is largely tribal custom, but in certain chiefdoms the Shari'a code of Moslem law is recognised, especially in the Qu'aiti State of Shihr and Mukalla (ruled by His Highness Sultan Sir Salih bin Ghalib al Qu'aiti, K.C.M.G.), which State legislates by published decrees.

During 1948 the local government of the Colony remained vested in two Township Authorities. The larger is known as the Fortress Township Authority and the area covered by it embraces the Isthmus and Peninsula with a civilian population of close on 60,000. The Military and the R.A.F. establishments are within this area. The other Authority is known as Sheikh Othman Township Authority and takes its name from the built up township of 21,000 persons, all non-Europeans, situated some four miles from the Isthmus. The area governed by it includes this township and the remainder of the Colony in which are to be found four small coastal villages the inhabitants of which earn their livelihood mainly by fishing, basket making and lime burning, using shells collected on the sea shore for this last purpose, and who look on the built up area of Sheikh Othman as their main shopping centre and the place in which they find their simple means of recreation. The total population of these villages is approximately 2,000.

The Township Authorities hold fortnightly meetings in the exercise of their functions of superintending various services of municipal character, such as control of markets, maintenance of public health and sanitary

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden MM1

Colony, and in particular to prohibit entry without a permit. Previously there was virtually no power to control immigration into the Colony. 167 671

The Official Secrets Ordinance, which replaces the Indian Official Secrets Act of 1923, and is based on the provisions of the United Kingdom Official Secrets Acts of 1911 and 1920.

The Registration of Clubs Ordinance, which provides for the compulsory registration of "clubs," as widely defined in the Ordinance. It empowers the Registrar, subject to confirmation by the Governor in Council, to refuse registration in any particular instance, and enables the Governor in Council to cancel the registration of a club. 575 671

The Civil Courts (Amendment) Ordinance, which provides for the setting-up of a District Court with power to hear proceedings of a civil nature (with certain exceptions) of a value below Rs. 2,000. For staff reasons, the Court has not yet been formed. 698 671

1950

In 1950 23 Ordinances were enacted of which the following were the more important : 671

The Police (Amendment) Ordinance, which enables the Commissioner of Police, with the approval of the Governor in Council, to appoint special police officers. Previously such officers could only be appointed by a magistrate when a disturbance had actually arisen or was apprehended. This gave little time for organisation or training ; special police may now be organised at any time for use should an emergency arise. The Ordinance also prohibits the wearing of uniforms in connection with political organisations or objects, and further prohibits the formation of quasi-military organisations. 625

The Registration of Persons Ordinance, which provides for the registration of all persons lawfully resident in the Colony at the time registration comes into force, and the issue to them of identity cards. The Ordinance is intended to supplement the new immigration control, under which all persons entering the Colony will be required to have a permit or pass. Registration has not yet been brought into force. 671 641

The Consular Conventions Ordinance, which confers certain powers and privileges upon the Consular Officers of foreign states with which Consular Conventions have been concluded by His Majesty's Government. 671

The Pensions Ordinance, which repeals and replaces the Pensions Ordinance, Cap. 102, and the Pensions (Subordinate Officers) Ordinance, Cap. 103, and is therefore applicable to all pensionable officers of whatever grade. It also incorporates provisions to implement the revised conditions of service in so far as the latter relates to pensions or to gratuities.

The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Ordinance, which increases the compensation payable in cases of permanent incapacity from 42 to 48 months' earnings. It also places an obligation on an employer to give notice to the Labour and Welfare Officer of any injury which a workman may suffer in the course of his employment. 671 466

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden MM1

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Other offences punishable under the Indian Penal Code	104	92
Offences punishable under the Police Ordinance	326	378
Offences punishable under the Township Rules and Vagrants and Undesirables Ordinance	502	462
Offences punishable under other laws including Port Rules	6,080	5,749
Offences punishable under Cruelty to Animals Rules	25	10
TOTAL ..	12,858	12,896

681 Magistrates Courts imposed the following punishments on convicted persons :

	1949	1950
Imprisonment with or without fine	856	1,064
Whipping	24	15
Fine only	6,499	6,190
Bound over for good behaviour	4	68
Applications for maintenance allowance ..	116	338
Orders granted	68	244

693 659 The Registration Department, under the Judge, maintains the usual register of births, marriages, and deaths, testamentary and other documents, firms, trade marks, patents and designs. The Sub-Registrar performs the duties of Notary Public, Registrar of Births and Deaths, Registrar of Parsi Marriages, Registrar of Firms, Trade Marks, Patents and Designs.

POLICE

625 The Police Force numbers 777, of which 331 are Armed Police who do not perform any civil police duties. The proportion of civil police to population is 1 to 226. The Civil Police include the Harbour Police, whose duties are chiefly concerned with the protection of shipping and cargo in the extremely busy harbour of Aden.

The force was under the command of the Commissioner throughout 1949 and 1950. The Civil Police perform normal police duties covering the protection of persons and property and the prevention and detection of crime in Aden Colony and in Aden harbour. The Criminal Investigation Department is responsible for the investigation of serious crime, special branch work, immigration, the issue of passports and the deportation of undesirables and vagrants. In addition the Police undertake the registration of motor vehicles, the issue of driving licences, the control and issue of permits to public service vehicles and the licensing of arms.

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden MM1

625 ●

The Armed Police is a semi-military force and is responsible for the maintenance of internal security. They provide guards where necessary and escorts for prisoners. They are trained and organised to provide an immediate striking force in the event of internal disorders. They also provide garrisons for the Islands of Perim and Kamaran.

Recruiting to maintain the Force up to strength has continued satisfactorily. Unfortunately the standard of literacy in the Force has remained low, as literate candidates do not present themselves for recruitment. The training of recruits in elementary English has continued.

653

There was an improvement in living conditions with the completion of new barracks in the Armed Police Lines and the construction of a new Police station, inspectors' quarters, and men's quarters at Khormaksar. In due course it is hoped that every member of the Force will be adequately housed.

674

The total number of cases registered under the Indian Penal Code was 711 in 1949 and 816 in 1950, compared with 889 in 1948 and 1,233 in 1947. There were 423 cases of offences against property in 1949 and 531 in 1950. The total value of property stolen was Rs. 91,684 in 1949 and Rs. 302,549 in 1950, of which property to the value of Rs. 19,461 and Rs. 25,324 respectively was recovered.

During 1949 and 1950 the numbers of cases dealt with by Police under local Ordinances were 4,704 and 7,826.

625
167

The volume of work in the Immigration Department has increased considerably since the implementation of the Immigration Rules in May, 1950. This has been largely due to the documentation involved under the new rules and the increased vigilance required to detect persons who have overstayed the validity of their permits.

PRISON

674

There was a considerable drop in the prison population in 1949 and 1950; the daily average number fell from 330 in 1948 to 157 in 1950—a drop of 48 per cent. Seventy-eight per cent of the convicted prisoners were from the Yemen and other neighbouring territories.

697

Consequent upon the drop in the prison population the prison officers were better able to carry out their duties which resulted in better discipline, fewer punishments and greater output in prison industries.

In spite of the smaller number of convicted prisoners (mostly on short terms) engaged on remunerative works, excellent progress has been made with the prison industries resulting in a very substantial increase in the revenue from the sales of manufactured articles. These industries are more than self-supporting and give a good training to the prisoners.

In 1950, two long-term prisoners, sent by the Mukalla Government for training, were taught all branches of the weaving and cane industries.

The Labour and Welfare Officer visited the prison on various occasions in connection with juvenile offenders and probation work.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

In addition the Supreme Court disposed of a large number of matters dealing with personal status where in the case of Muslims Sharia Law is applied.

Magistrates' Courts

	1951	1952
Criminal Cases . . .	10,172	9,262
Civil Cases . . .	758	840

POLICE

Establishment

The responsibility for the maintenance of law and order within the Colony and the islands of Perim and Kamaran is vested in a Commissioner of Police and the following was the approved establishment of his Force for 1952 :

	Officers	*Ch. Inspectors, Inspectors & Sub-Insps.*	*Cadets*	*Other Ranks*
Civil Police . . .	8	20	4	369
Armed Police . . .	2	12	—	321
Little Aden Refinery detachment	14	18	—	112
Total Establishment . .	24	50	4	802

The Civil Police are employed on the prevention and detection of crime. The Armed Police is a task force and is available for any duties which are outside the scope of the Civil Police. Civil Police are trained in normal police duties but the Armed Police are trained more as soldiers than policemen.

Approval was given in the latter part of the year for the provision of additional police for the Aden Petroleum Refinery project at Little Aden where over 10,000 people of all races are expected to be employed during construction, which started in November, 1952, and is expected to continue for about two and a half years.

Organisation

The Colony is divided into four Police Divisions each under the command of a Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Police with Chief Inspectors or Inspectors in charge of Police Stations.

The Commissioner deals with Divisions direct assisted by a Deputy Commissioner, who is responsible for the administration of the Force, and a Superintendent who is responsible for crime investigation and collection of intelligence.

The Armed Police occupy barracks strategically situated in the old town of Crater. They are commanded by a Superintendent who is responsible for their administration, discipline and training, assisted by an Assistant Superintendent. The Armed Police provide detachments for duty on the islands of Kamaran and Perim.

Recruitment and Training

Vacancies in the rank of constable are filled mainly by recruiting either local Arabs or Arabs from the Protectorate. The training course lasts for three months.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MMI Aden MM1

625 The standard of literacy is very low and many of the recruits can
212 neither read nor write Arabic. Only a few are able to read and write simple English. Evening schools were started in June, 1952, by arrangement with the Director of Education who provided teachers and allowed the use of classrooms at three schools.

Athletics were revived and a very good meeting was held in December, 1952.

CRIME

SERIOUS AND MINOR CASES IN 1952.

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Offences under the Indian Penal Code	*Cases Reported*	*Taken to Court*	*Convicted*	*Under Investigation*	*No. of Juveniles Convicted*
Homicide	3	1	1	1	—
Other offences against the person :					
(*a*) Attempted Murder	2	2	2	—	—
(*b*) Rape and unlawful carnal knowledge	1	1	—	—	—
(*c*) Unnatural offences	7	4	4	—	—
(*d*) Other offences	191	158	116	10	5
Malicious injury to property	5	2	2	—	—
Other offences against property (other than praedial larceny and malicious injury to property) :					
(*a*) Theft	717	347	264	38	25
(*b*) House-breaking	186	63	49	4	5
(*c*) Criminal & house trespass	42	28	23	3	—
(*d*) Other	255	121	106	3	2
TOTAL	1,409	727	567	59	37
Minor Acts	5,429	5,229	3,589	14	18

1952 saw an increase of 33 per cent in serious crime compared with 1951. The rise in crime coincided with an apparent very marked increase in the population. Thefts rose by 43 per cent and house breakings by 34 per cent.

368 *Other Police Duties*

625 *Fire Fighting.* Twelve fires were attended and dealt with by the police.

167 *Immigration and Passports.* There was an increase in 1952 of 30 per
486 cent in the number of immigrants as compared with 1951. Seven hundred and four new entry permits were issued and over 19,000 people were dealt with by the Immigration Officers. Over 10,770 people left the Colony.

The number of travel documents issued in 1952 was 4,250, an increase of 60 per cent over the previous year. The work increased to such an extent that it was found necessary to employ an officer on full-time duty from August, 1952.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

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131 it is a refuelling station, originally for coal, and now for coal and oil.
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Chapter 3: Administration

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645 tution of Aden has been that of a Crown Colony. The Colony is administered by a Governor, assisted by an Executive Council.

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659 fishermen, and dried fish is exported to Aden. There is a small police detachment in the island together with medical and lighthouse staff.

3sRoyal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 M1 Middle East
Aden-MMI

Britain provide for post-secondary education, but it is hoped eventually to develop Aden College to university standard. Working-class houses were being built to replace insanitary houses of matting, but the shortage of housing remained one of the most important problems. In 1952 a scheme which had been under discussion in Aden for five years, to supplement the existing civil hospital of 350 beds with a new 600-bed hospital, received Colonial Office approval. However, rising costs and delays in the supply of equipment have caused the postponement of plans to provide water-borne sewerage and to expand the electricity supply and the automatic telephone system, which were desirable to keep pace with the large increase in population.

Cable & Wireless Ltd provide cable and telegraph communication with all parts of the world and operate a radio telegraph station working to the countries of the southern Red Sea area. In 1950 a radio-telephone service was opened to Great Britain and the three British East African territories. In 1950 BOAC made Aden the base for its Red Sea services and formed a subsidiary organization called Aden Airways; regular services are available to all the surrounding territories by these and other air lines. The terminal building of a civil airport is still under construction. The garrison is under the command of the senior RAF Officer, Aden. Apart from RAF personnel the Aden levies, which are recruited locally and number some 2,000 men, are available for service in the Colony and on special duties in the Protectorate.

History

In Himyarite times and earlier, traffic in incense gave considerable prosperity to what is now Aden Protectorate. The main incense road to the Mediterranean, through Sana, Mecca, and Petra, started from Husn al-Ghorab (Raven Castle), a tiny rock-island off the Hadramaut coast, some 200 miles east of modern Aden. This land route survived with diminishing importance until about the sixteenth century. Towards the end of that century English traders began to look East, and in 1600 Queen Elizabeth granted a charter to the East India Company. Its primary object was to establish British trade in India in competition with their maritime rivals, the Portuguese and Dutch. As a first exploit an expedition was dispatched to Aden and the Red Sea, but, failing to open up a factory at Socotra, it was withdrawn in 1608. Next year a second expedition reached Aden, but Turkish permission to establish a factory was refused. In 1614 the Dutch, who had formed a rival East India Company

65:Landshut S-4 (no date)1950 M1 Middle East
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fewer. Be that as it may, of the total only 4,700 belonged to the original Jewish community of Aden: the rest—about 3,800—were Yemeni Jews in transit to Palestine. On arrival in Aden, after a most hazardous journey across the desert, the Yemeni emigrants were usually destitute and in a complete state of exhaustion.

Formerly they used to be quartered either in the Jewish part of the Crater district of the town or in the Jewish quarter of Sheikh 'Othman, about eight miles inland from the Crater. More recently, so much has their number increased, that a separate camp, known as Hashad camp, was for a time set up for them a mile and a half from Sheikh 'Othman. The Hashad camp, which has now been replaced by another—made available by the Aden Government—was subsidised by the Joint Distribution Committee and directed by a woman physician (a remarkable woman in many ways), Dr. Olga Feinberg.

Many of the Yemeni Jews in Aden are employed as coolies, casual labourers and hawkers, a number dwelling in the Coolie Lines and in caves in the rocks. The rest are mainly craftsmen (as they were in Yemen)—gold- and silversmiths, weavers, carders, thatchers, and so forth.

The Jewish community of Aden proper, numbering until recently between 4,000 and 5,000, is centred in the Crater, where Jewish shops, many of them in the Suq, are mingled with those of Muslims, Hindus, and Parsees. A few of the wealthier Jewish merchants have shops in the Steamer Point district, where the Government offices and better-class shops are situated.

Thanks to the generosity of the Menahem Messa family, until the riots, the community had a large and well-equipped school and a spacious new synagogue. In addition, there was another somewhat smaller school. Owing to the lack of qualified teachers, however, the standard of education is low. The new and richly decorated synagogue was also used as a kind of clubhouse, and was an habitual rendezvous when services were not in progress.

The relations between the old Jewish community of Aden and the Muslims used to be tolerably good. But the growing influx of Yemeni Jews led to the development of a certain degree of tension between them and the Muslim coolies, many of whom—incidentally—are themselves of Yemeni origin. It is also likely that inflammatory nationalist broadcasts from Egypt and other Arab stations in the Middle East, blaring out daily through loudspeakers in Aden cafés, have played their part in stirring up anti-Jewish feeling.

Following the appeal of the Arab League for a three-day protest strike against the decision of the United Nations to partition Palestine, an anti-Zionist demonstration in Aden developed into a riot. Jewish shops and houses in the Crater and in Sheikh 'Othman were attacked, many being burnt and looted.

From the official report of the Commission of Inquiry, it is evident that the reason why the British authorities were unable to bring the

65:Landshut S-4 (no date)1950 M1 Middle East
Aden MM1

disturbances to an end for three whole days was that the Aden Protectorate Levies completely failed to do their duty. This locally-raised force, recruited from the Muslim tribes of the Protectorate area, not only failed to stop the rioters, but themselves took part in the looting of Jewish shops. Indeed, there is evidence to suggest that the high number of Jewish casualties is due to the fact that the Levies turned their weapons on the victims of the riots instead of on the rioters.

Feelings run high in these matters, and there is always a temptation to attribute to bias in official quarters events caused merely by incompetence. It must be said, on the other hand, that the authorities themselves have done little to dispel suspicion of bias on their part. For instance, on December 5, 1947, the Governor of Aden sent a cable to the Colonial Secretary in London, part of which reads as follows:

"Alleged hostile activity of Jews created new dangerous tension, especially after killing of a Levy and an Indian Muslim Government doctor almost certainly by Jewish snipers."

The subsequent Commission of Inquiry, however, established that there was not the slightest evidence of the existence of any Jewish snipers whatsoever, and that the Indian doctor had in fact been shot by Levies (*Report*, pp. 14 and 21).

During the riots, both Jewish schools and four of the synagogues were burnt to the ground. Of the 170 Jewish shops in Aden, 106 were totally looted and another eight partially looted. About 220 Jewish houses were destroyed or damaged. Eighty-two Jews were killed, and a similar number wounded. Financially, the losses suffered by the Aden Jews are estimated at £1,150,000.

The riots had a devastating effect on the Jewish community, economically as well as socially and psychologically. The compensation (partly in the form of loans) offered by the Aden Government to help those who had lost everything to start afresh was totally inadequate. Moreover, widespread bewilderment and distrust had undermined the very basis of normal peaceful social relations between Jews and Muslims.

The American Joint Distribution Committee consequently decided on a large-scale evacuation plan—"Operation Magic Carpet"—as a result of which almost the entire Jewish population was ferried by air to Israel. At the time of writing, there are only 1,200 Jews left in Aden, of whom about a quarter have expressed a wish to emigrate.